

# Possible persons and places to be recognised in new Street Names in Hastings and St Leonards

Version 6

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## Persons with Hastings connections honoured in World War I

To commemorate the 100th anniversary. The following persons are named on the roll of honour in Hastings Town Hall

### **Corporal Alfred William BELSEY D.C.M.** (c1886 – 05/09/1916 -aged 30)

Service number 7164. Corporal Belsey served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Rifles and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Son of Edward and Edith Belsey of Hastings, he is remembered with honour at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall, Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and research by Hastings Museum)*

### **Major Edward Upton BODY M.C.** (c1879-04/11/1918 - aged 39)

Major Body served in the 130<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 40<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and was awarded Military Cross in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great presence of mind and fine courage under heavy shell fire in running to a burning ammunition dump and extinguishing the fire which was threatening to spread; a further explosion would have had very serious consequences. (Gazette date 18/07/1917 info 7222). His records show that he was son of William and Sarah Body of Tenterden, Kent and husband of Hilda May Body of 82 Warrior Square, St Leonards.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

### **Lance Sergeant Herbert Jack BRASIER M.M.** (c1897-21/03/1918 – aged 21)

Service number 10489. Lance Sergeant Brasier was killed in action whilst serving in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Machine Gun Corps in France and Flanders. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field (Gazette 30364 30/10/1917 page 11328). Son of George & Mary Brasier of 3 Dukes Road, Tunbridge Wells, his record shows that he was born in Hastings.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

### **Lance Corporal E J BROWN M.M.**(c1889-12/10/1916 – aged 27)

Service number SD/1157/ Lance Corporal Brown served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and was awarded the Military Medal. Son of William and Emily Brown of 20 Emmanuel Road, Hastings and husband of Anne B Brown of 4 Portland Terrace, Burwash he is honoured at Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall, Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and research by Hastings Museum)*

### **Private Cyril Edward BROWN** (c1895-13/09/1917 –aged 22)

Service number G/2316. Private Brown served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and was Mentioned in Despatches. He was the son of Mrs M J Saxby of 127 Mount Pleasant Road, Hastings and is remembered with honour at Mendinghem Military Cemetery.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall, Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and research by Hastings Museum)*

### **Sergeant Wallace BUTLER D.C.M.** (-03/09/1916)

Service number G5148. Private Butler served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Buffs (East Kent

Regiment) and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He is honoured at Thiepval Memorial. *(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and research by Hastings Museum)*

**Company Sergeant Major James Henry CATT D.C.M** (c1893 – 18/09/1918 – aged 25)  
Service number 131. Sergeant Major Catt was killed in action whilst serving in France and Flanders in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) of the British Army. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He collected a small party and attacked an enemy strong point, taking over 100 prisoners and a machine gun. He showed untiring skill and energy in consolidating the trench. He was born and resident of Hastings, son of Mr & Mrs James Catt of 33 Winchelsea Road.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

**Petty Officer Charles John COLBRAN D.S.M.** (c1884 – 02/03/1918 – aged 34)  
Service number 208778. Petty Officer Colbran served on ship HM S/M H5 of the Royal Navy. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for bravery and resourcefulness in active service at sea and set an example of bravery and resource under fire during World War I. As an Able Seaman, Colbran was also awarded the African Service Medal for duty in Somaliland where he served on HMS Pomone between 1902 and 1904. Son of Thomas and Jane Colbran of Hastings.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

**Sergeant Walter COUCHMAN D.C.M.** (c1891-01/05/1916 – aged 25)  
Service number L/9107. Sergeant Couchman served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The son of Walter and Sarah Couchman of Edgbaston, Birmingham he is remembered with honour at Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall, Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and research by Hastings Museum)*

**Sergeant Percy Thomas ROSS D.C.M** ( - 26/05/1915)  
Service number 2038, Sergeant Ross was killed in action in France whilst serving in the 1<sup>st</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion London Regiment of the British Army. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which was a high level award for bravery, regarded as second only to the Victoria Cross in prestige. Born in Hastings, he resided in Balham.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

**Captain Valentine Edgar SIEVEKING D.S.C. and Bar** (c1892-18/05/1918 – aged 26)  
Captain in the 214<sup>th</sup> Squadron Royal Naval Air Force. Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his services on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917 when he dropped bombs on Ostend seaplane base with good results, making two trips (Gazette 6256 22/06/1917 & 4647 17/04/1918). He was also awarded the Bar to D.S.C. for skills and determination in attacking enemy aerodromes, docks, etc., with bombs. On the night of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February 1918, he carried out two bombing attacks on Bruges Docks, and on the following night he again carried out two attacks one on Denis Westrem Aerodrome and on one Bruges docks. He was killed in action in Handley, shot down bombing Solway Works, Zeebrugge (Gazette 30635 16/04/1918 page 4647) and is buried in Zeebrugge cemetery. Son of Isabel Giberne Sieveking, detailed later in this document.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

**Gunner Reginald SIMS M.M.** (c1891-04/04/1918 – aged 27)  
Service number 196189. Killed in action whilst serving in 'C' Battery of 315<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery in France and Flanders. He won the Military Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Adopted son of George William Baker of 17 Alexandra Road St Leonards, he was born in Hastings and lived in St Leonards.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

**Corporal Lloyd Tom SKILTON M.M.** (c.1891-09/08/1917 – aged 26)

Service number 409655. Corporal Skilton served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry. He was awarded the Military Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was of Canadian nationality but was the son of George and A M Skilton of Landview Terrace, St Helens, St Leonards.

*(Source: WW1 memorial at Hastings Town Hall and online research by Sarah Stapley of Forces War Records)*

## Other people to be considered for recognition

(ordered by year of death)

### **General James MURRAY** (died 1794)

Murray fought under General James Wolfe in the successful attack on French Quebec in 1759 and following Wolfe's death in battle on the plains of Abraham became Governor of Quebec and ultimately, when the French troops surrendered, Governor of British Canada. He had a long association with Hastings, through his marriage in 1748 to Cordelia Sayer, daughter of Hastings Mayor and lawyer, John Collier. He was elected a freeman and Jurat of the Borough in 1757 and was an owner of property in Hastings that included the Old Swan Inn and Bohemia Farm. In the 1780s Murry built Beauport park near Battle, named after the Quarter of Quebec in which he had been stationed. He died at Beauport in 1794.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **Captain Sir John KINCAID** (1787 -1862)

Captain Sir John Kincaid was born in Dalbeath, Scotland, in 1787. He fought throughout the Peninsular Wars with Wellington (also a famous resident). At the Battle of Waterloo, Kincaid was Adjutant of the famous 95th (Rifles) a regiment now immortalised by 'Sharpe's Rifles' TV and books series. He lived the last years of his life at 7, Cambridge Road, Hastings (which is still standing) and is buried in Hastings Cemetery. He famously wrote his experiences in 'Adventures in the Rifle Brigade' first published in 1830 and still on sale today. Knighted in 1852 he also held the honorary appointment of senior Exon Yeoman of the Guard.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **George MONGER VC** (1840-1887)

At 17, one of the youngest recipients of the Victoria Cross from the Siege of Lucknow in 1857. Following his discharge from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment in 1878 he moved to Tower Road, St Leonards with his wife and family where he died aged 48 and was buried in Hastings Cemetery.

(source: <http://friendsofhastingscemetery.org.uk/mongerg.html>)

### **Edward LEAR** (1812 – 1888)

Author and artist stayed in Clive Vale, Hastings in 1852 where he was introduced to the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

(source: <http://nonsenselit.wordpress.com/a-chronology-of-lears-life/>)

### **Coventry PATMORE** (1823-1896)

Roman Catholic poet and associate of the Pre-Raphaelites who lived at Olds Hastings House from 1875 to 1891. In 1883 he commissioned the building of St Mary Star of the Sea Church as a memorial to his second wife, Marianne.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **George Macdonald** (1824-1905)

Scottish born author and poet, best known for children's stories such as 'At The Back of The Wind' and 'The princess and The Goblin'. Macdonald lived in Hastings first in the 1850s at Providence Cottage which he renamed Huntly House, just off Tackleway and later in the early 1870s at Halloway House at the bottom of Old London Road.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **Sophia Jex-Blake** (1840-1912)

Born in Hastings, she was the first practising female doctor in Scotland and one of the first in the wider United Kingdom. Largely as a result of her struggles to study medicine, an act of parliament sanctioned degrees for women in 1889. She later founded two medical schools for women in London and Endinburgh.

(source: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/celebrating-diversity/inspiring-women/women-in-history/sophia-jex-blake>)

### **Harry FURNISS** (1854-1925)

Caricaturist and Punch Cartoonist, famous for his portrayal of 19th century politicians. He was also a well-known book illustrator and an early pioneer of cinematography. Furniss lived at High Wickham in Hastings Old Town from 1904 until his death in 1925. He also had a studio at East Cliff House

(source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **Henry WARD (1854-1927)**

Architect who designed many significant buildings in Hastings where he lived and worked, including The Congregational Church and Debenhams in Robertson Street and the Observer Building in Cambridge Road as well as other fine buildings in Bexhill, Eastbourne, Guildford and Aldershot.

(source: <http://friendsofhastingscemetery.org.uk/ward2.html>)

### **Frederick Dewhurst YATES (1884-1932)**

First Premier winner of the Hastings Chess Congress on 1920/21

(source <http://www.hastingschess.org.uk/premier%20winners.htm>)

### **Isabel De Giberne SIEVEKING** née Giberne (1857–1936)

A devout Anglo-Catholic who was fascinated by psychic phenomenon. Between 1909 and 1912, under the name I.G. Sieveking, she wrote a novel and several important works of biography and history including The Memoirs of Sir Horace Mann, Autumn Impressions in the Gironde, A Turning-Point in the Indian Mutiny and her best-known book, Memoirs and Letters of Francis Newman (1909, reprinted 2007).

(Source: *Ten Notable Women of Hastings* by Helena Wojtczak published by Hastings Press 2008)

### **Rider HAGGARD (1865-1956)**

Author of 'King Solomon's Mines', 'She' and other novels that epitomise the mystery of unexplored Africa in the 19th century. In 1918 Rider Haggard came to live at St Leonards at North Lodge, Maze Hill, the house built across the road at the entrance to old St Leonards. This remained his home until 1923.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **Sheila KAYE-SMITH (1887-1956)**

Prolific authoress whose novels are set in the Sussex countryside around Hastings and Rye. She was born in St Leonards, the daughter of a local doctor and lived in Dane Road until her marriage in 1924.

(Source: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/arts-culture/famous/> )

### **Alfred Mills STONHAM aka BIDDY the TUBMAN (1879-1964)**

Fisherman and lifeboat man born in a lived in Hastings until his death. Most famously known locally for his acrobatic tubman act. He was a sailor in Word War 1 and helped in the evacuation of Dunkirk in World War 2. He received a medal for bravery from the RNLI.

(Source: <https://hastingsinfocus.co.uk/2018/05/17/remembering-the-legacy-of-biddy-the-tubman/>)

### **Muriel MATTERS (1877- 1969)**

Muriel Matters became the first woman to make a speech in the House of Commons in 1908, albeit unofficially, after chaining herself to a grille in the Ladies Gallery. Security staff were forced to eject her through the main chamber, and she carried on with her speech throughout. After her release from Holloway Prison, she flew over London in an 80ft long airship emblazoned with the slogan 'Votes for Women', dropping leaflets. In 1914, she married William Porter, and thereafter became known as Muriel Matters-Porter and became an educational reformer and advocate of the Montessori Method of teaching. In 1924 Muriel Matters stood unsuccessfully as a Labour candidate for parliament in Hastings but stayed in Hastings until her death in 1969 at the age of 92, having lived at 7 Pelham Crescent from 1949 to 1969. She died in a care home in St Leonards and is buried in Hastings Cemetery.

(Source: HBC press release July 2013)

### **Leonard Malcolm SAVILLE (1901-1982)**

Author Malcom Saville who is best known for his fiction books for children, his principal works involve The Lone Pine Club, was born in Hastings.

(source: <http://www.witchend.com/>)

**Mary Noel STREATFEILD (1895-1986)**

Author of 38 children's books including the 'Ballet Shoes' series and 16 adult novels under the name of Noel Streatfeild, as well as 12 romances under the pen-name Susan Scarlett. Her father was Vicar of St Peter's Church in St Leonards from 1902 to 1911. Mary attended Hastings and St Leonard's Ladies College during her time in Hastings. A Blue Plaque was unveiled at Streatfeild House, the former vicarage they ran in St Leonards.

(source <http://www.whitegauntlet.com.au/noelstreatfeild/index.htm>)

**James Simon Wallis HUNT (1947-1993)**

Formula One World Championship racing driver, educated at Westerleigh School, St Leonards

(source: [http://www.formula1.com/teams\\_and\\_drivers/hall\\_of\\_fame/326/](http://www.formula1.com/teams_and_drivers/hall_of_fame/326/))

**Dolly COLLINS (1935-1995) (family consent may be required to use name)**

Folk Musician, composer and arranger born in Hastings who with her sister Shirley led the English folk revival and made fifty-nine recordings. Their best know work was Anthems in Eden commissioned by the BBC.

(Source: *Ten Notable Women of Hastings* by Helena Wojtczak published by Hastings Press 2008)

**Harry GOLOMBEK (1911-1995) (family consent may be required to use name)**

Frequently played at the Hastings Chess Tournament. He was born in London. Awarded the IM title in 1950 and an Emeritus GM title in 1985, he was British Champion in 1947 1949 and 1955. He also played on nine English Olympiad teams from 1935 to 1962. During World War II he worked at Bletchley Park deciphering the German enigma codes but he is best remembered for his work as an author and as chess editor for the London Times 1945-89. Awarded an OBE in 1966.

(Source: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=21934>)

**Tyrone WILDMAN (1951-2010) (family consent will be required to use name)**

Local sporting hero who lost his life suddenly to a pulmonary embolism. Tyrone was British Body Building Champion in 1982 and a former power lifting champion who enjoyed his sport locally with Sidley Cricket Club and Hollington Table Tennis Club and was an employee at Falaise Fitness Centre.

(Source: *Hastings Observer*)

**Reg WILD (1939 – 2011) (family consent will be required to use name)**

Renowned for his voluntary work within the local athletics community and was involved in the original conception and organisation of the Hastings Half Marathon.

(Source: <http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/tributes-are-paid-to-athlete-reg-wild-1-2982771>)

**Lee RICHARDSON (1979–2012) (family consent will be required to use name)**

British International Speedway Rider born and lived in Hastings. Died in an accident while racing in Wrocklaw, Poland. He was a former World Under-21 champion and Britain's all-time World Cup points scorer.

(Source: [BBC.co.uk/sport](http://BBC.co.uk/sport))

**Dr Richard MALE (1973-2013) (family consent will be required to use name [via Cllr Mike Turner])**

Well respected doctor who worked at the Conquest and Station Plaza.

(Source: Cllr Mike Turner and <http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/partner-tried-in-vain-to-save-gp-1-5798547>)

## Places to be considered for recognition

### The Cinque Ports

Hastings is a member of the Confederation of Cinque Ports. This is a unique association of maritime towns and villages in Kent and East Sussex, dating back 1000 years. Some of the other members are already recognised in street names across the borough, but the following have not been:

- Cinque Ports - **Dover, New Romney**
- Limbs – **Folkestone, Faversham, Margate, Deal, Ramsgate**

(Source: <http://cinqueports.org/>)